

## Issues raised at AFAP conference

### Community members raise quality-of-life concerns to next level

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Soldiers, civilians and family members from throughout the 284th Base Support Battalion addressed issues of concern Feb. 19 at the Army Family Action Plan conference.

"We looked at last year's issues in the 284th Base Support Battalion as well as the 104th Area Support Group and Department of the Army conference books to make sure we did not duplicate the same issues," said Denise Dorrior, Butzbach Outreach Center volunteer.

Community members had a chance to suggest quality-of-life improvements on issue cards, starting last November, which were dropped off in issue call boxes.

"During the BSB conference the representatives were divided into four groups working on issues concerning entitlements, leadership, money matters and youth groups. Each group discussed the issues and prioritized them so we could determine the top issues that will be forwarded to the 104th ASG AFAP conference," said Sheryl Rogers, Friedberg ACS director.

"I've been involved in the AFAP process for 14 years now and I've seen major changes," said Rogers. "For instance the Temporary Lodging Expenses were changed from three days to 10 days, the SGLI increased, the medical benefits have improved. All these changes happened because someone suggested a change, and the suggestion went all the way up to the DA level or even to Congress. It just takes one person's idea to make a change in the Army. They know someone will listen and their voices will be heard."

The following suggestions were determined to be the 284th BSB community's top issues:

- ❖ Inconsistent prices between Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Defense Commissary Agency facilities. Customers have to pay more for the same items in the shoppette than at the commissary. Both services should be combined without the loss of commissary benefits and AAFES contributions to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

- ❖ Active duty service members don't receive matching contributions to the Thrifts Savings Plan as do Department of Defense civilian employees. Active duty TSP contributions should be matched up to 5 percent.

- ❖ Active duty service members should be given a tax



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Community members home in on the top issues of concern during the 284th BSB AFAP conference Feb. 19.

break. One of the benefits for civilians paying taxes is protection by the military. For that active duty personnel should be given a federal income tax break.

- ❖ Family readiness liaisons are not able to fulfill their mission because it's assigned as an additional duty and not as a primary mission. Commands should either appoint a full-time FRL or be authorized to hire a civilian employee to serve in the position.

- ❖ Family members do not receive desired information about unit/community activities. Family Readiness Groups and family readiness liaisons need to provide unit/community information through the Community Mail Rooms. Each unit should also have a bulletin board at the CMR. Copies of the Community Information Brief should be available.

- ❖ Tricare service is not standardized. Families must enroll and be familiar with the Tricare system in the region they live in. Currently benefits must be modified if leaving the region for a period of 30 days or more. Tricare should be under one system of access and under DEERS regardless of the geographical area.

- ❖ Quality and curriculum in Department of Defense

Dependents Schools do not meet the same standards as in other schools systems. DoDDS needs to develop a more challenging curriculum that sets the standard in public education. Development needs to be initiated through survey in comparison to federally recognized schools of excellence.

- ❖ There is a lack of jobs for family members. There should be a requirement that all jobs be coded family member positions first. If no family member can be found the job may be given to a local national employee.

- ❖ Because of host nation laws there's a lack of driving opportunities for obtaining a stateside driver's license, especially for older teens returning to the States without their parents. Driver's education classes should be reinstated in DoDDS.

- ❖ Because of soldier priority on shuttle buses and limited scheduling there is a need to teach community members about using the host nation public transportation system. In a community with several posts for family members, especially students without the ability to drive, the lack of transportation becomes a morale issue. ACS should provide a class at the school about using public transportation.

- ❖ Community members are misled/misinformed because of changing shuttle bus schedules. Since the shuttle buses are the main source of transportation for non-driving individuals the bus schedule must be accurate and reliable. Schedules should be posted at stops in a timely manner and notifications of a new schedule should go out before the new schedule takes effect.

"It's the first time I've attended an AFAP conference," said Staff Sgt. Howard Smith of the 284th BSB Provost Marshal's Office. "It was interesting because we didn't just have local issues, but also Army-wide issues that can be forwarded to the DA level to be fixed. I think AFAP really works and that our voices are heard."

"It's my second conference and it really makes a difference, because you get to see what other people in the community think and not always what the 'big people' think or see," said high school student Katherine Seitz.

"I became more well-rounded because I learned about more issues besides personal issues. I learned more about the difficulties soldiers have, and our group was able to make recommendations to solve those issues," said family member Nancy Clopper.

"I think the AFAP conference has a big impact on the community, including myself. It's my first time here in Germany and I heard people talk about it, but I did not know what AFAP was about," said family member Luz Medeiros.

## Help safeguard your community with SNAP

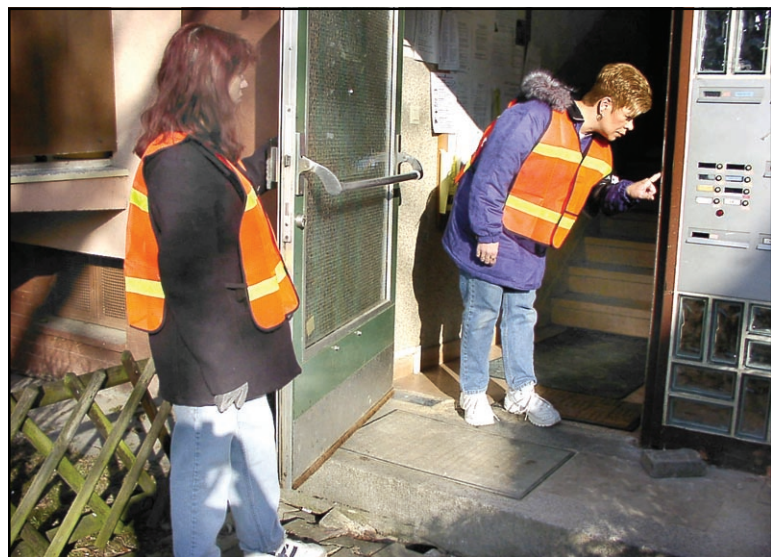


Photo by Luz Medeiros

Tonya Hua and Sylvia Thomas check to make sure a stairwell door is secure in Giessen while making their rounds as SNAP volunteers.

### Program seeks new volunteers

By Luz Medeiros

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The 284th Base Support Battalion Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program seeks volunteers for all housing areas.

SNAP is a community effort aimed at enhancing force protection and crime prevention. Volunteers actively observe surroundings, report suspicious activities, increase awareness and watch out for families and fellow soldiers.

The program offers a variety of opportunities for those interested in volunteering. While experience

is not required it is mandatory to attend a two-hour volunteer safety training session covering observation and reporting procedures, suspicious item identification, SNAP community observer's authority, crime prevention and force protection tips.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know community members and help us work for a safer environment," said Tania Gonzales, SNAP coordinator.

After completion of the volunteer training SNAP community patrols have access to more free training including personal protection (self-defense), child safety and supervision, home and travel security, first aid for families and

others, she said.

"The program is open to all housing residents. The age limit is 17 years and up, but a 16-year-old or under may be on a patrol as long as he or she is accompanied by an adult," said Gonzales. Volunteers work on their own schedule, but must be accompanied by another volunteer.

"SNAP volunteers are looking for suspicious people or objects, housing doors being left unsecured, abandoned vehicles, dogs without leashes and children damaging the playground," said Gonzales. "These are things that we need to make our community a better place to live in."

If interested in becoming a SNAP volunteer call Gonzales at mil 343-6500 or civ (0641) 402-6500.



# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen



Deric Gilliard signs a copy of his book for Giessen community member Jackie Jacobs. Right photo: Bonita Hyman sings a spiritual, accompanied by Paul Hyman on guitar, at the Black History observance.



## Speaker cites ‘unsung’ civil rights heroes

Story and photos by Petra Roberts  
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Giessen community members got a crash course in contemporary African American history during the 284th Base Support Battalion's Black History Month observances. Deric Gilliard, author of "Unsung — Living In The Shadows Of A Legend; Heroes and 'Sheroes' Who Marched With Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." cited the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other Americans while sharing his insight and personal experiences about growing up during the turbulence of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and '60s.

Gilliard described how black Americans at that time could purchase clothes at stores

but could not try them on before buying them. They could order food at a lunch counter, but had to go around back to pick it up. They had to change sidewalks to make room for white pedestrians. Students went to college under the watchful eye of National Guard soldiers, and various forms of silent protest were common.

Gilliard said it is important to recognize the sacrifices that generation of Americans made to make life better for people today.

"You owe it to yourself to be all you can be," he said. "Lose yourself in the mission of being successful in life; do something that outlives you — something you can look back upon."

Gilliard, a minister with the Evangelical Covenant Church of America, cited the

achievements of some of the legends of the civil rights movement — people he said he had the pleasure to get to know. He recalled John Thomas, who drove workers during the Montgomery bus boycott; Roberts Nesbitt, who recruited the then 25-year-old King to the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala.; Dr. Robert Hayling, a Florida dentist and leader of the historic St. Augustine movement which helped bring about the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

These people and other "unsung heroes" dedicated their lives to earning rights that today's generation takes for granted, he said, yet very few people know their names.

Gilliard was accompanied by his father, the only black member of the 1964 U.S. Olympics pistol marksmanship team.

The author said he was inspired to write the book in memory of those brave souls, black and white, young and old, from North and South, East and West who helped bring about positive change.

"He was great. He really changed my thoughts about how privileged we are as African Americans and how far we've come since the 1950s," said Jarred Dukes, a Giessen High 11th-grader. "We have to thank people like Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks for allowing this generation to eat at restaurants, use public restrooms, attend the same schools as whites and enjoy a free life."

Mezzo-soprano Bonita Hyman, accompanied on guitar by Paul Bowman, performed at the Black History Month celebration at Giessen's Alpine Club.

## Deployment or not: *Community services remain unchanged*

By Col. David Bender  
284th Base Support Battalion commander

As everyone watches the news and the possibility that the Ready First Combat Team will be called to deploy to fight in the global war on terrorism, many have asked the question — "What will community services look like if most of the soldiers are deployed?" The answer is they will remain the same.

Just about every community support service will maintain its hours and the same quality of service. In some cases services will be improved and expanded. The PX, shoppettes, food courts, commissaries, Army Community Service, Army Post Office, community mailrooms, health clinics, Department of Defense Dependents Schools, MWR activities and all Child and Youth Services will be open for business as usual should

our troops deploy. The important message is that the best place for a family to be in the event of a deployment is right here. Your information and support pipeline is tied to your Family Readiness Group and each battalion's rear detachment commander. Our DoDDS schools, Child Development Centers, School-Age Services and Youth Services will be prepared for the stress children will feel should their dads and moms leave for an extended period. And our Army Community Service centers will operate on an expanded schedule and provide around-the-clock video teleconferencing capability. There will be no "rolling up the sidewalks" as was the case during the '91 Gulf War at some places in the States.

And there are no plans that when Ready First redeploys, they are not coming back to Giessen-Friedberg.

Should a deployment order come down, it is vital that spouses attend their unit's predeployment briefings. All of their questions and concerns will be addressed there. Plus, they will be able to get the best information and advice on what to do while a sponsor is deployed.

If you hear rumors that just don't sound right or are contrary to this commentary contact your Family Readiness Group leader, readiness liaison or your sponsor's chain of command to get the correct story. Or you can always call Army Community Service in Giessen at mil 343-7618 or in Friedberg at mil 324-3465.

Whatever happens, the soldiers and civilians, both U.S. and German, of the 284th BSB and all of the outstanding supporting community organizations and agencies stand ready to continue to provide the same quality service you deserve.



# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Community spotlight ... Community spotlight

### Improving service with ICE

Customer feedback to 284th Base Support Battalion managers through the Integrated Customer Evaluation comment card program has resulted in several changes and enhancements. Among changes resulting from ICE feedback are extended hours of operation and an altered class schedule at local fitness centers, the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program has been expanded and Directorate of Logistics bus driver service can now be evaluated. Based on customer feedback certain programs within the Community Recreation Division were altered to fit customer needs. Managers continue to stress that they find ICE a valuable tool for improving their services. ICE allows soldiers and families coping with a move to find readily available information before the transition to their new duty station. Let your comments be heard and help service providers recognize your needs and serve you better by giving them feedback on the ICE website. Browse to the 284th Base Support Battalion website at [www.giessen.army.mil](http://www.giessen.army.mil) and click on ICE "Customer Comment Cards."

### Kudos to volunteers

Army Community Service thanks the following volunteers for playing an important part on the ACS team and making a difference: Tameka Allen, William Ashmore, Carmen Bastos, Kristine Burich, Sondra Carlson, Laura Chhoeung, Deborah Gantt, Pamela Hobbs, Lisa Johnson, Doris McLaughlin, Luz Medeiros, Krisztina Moery, Katherine Monge, Gretchen Muskina, April Perkins, Erik Peterson, Kelly Peterson, Maritza Ramirez, Bill Reneau, Julie Shinn, Valentina Smith, Debbie Sudduth, Marlene Torres, Joan Veltman, Kristy Walker, Lana Young and Nicole Young. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

### Foster Care Program

The 284th Base Support Battalion Exceptional Family Members and Family Advocacy Program seek families willing to provide emergency placement care for children in dangerous situations. For more information call Perry Tripp at mil 343-7618 or civ (0641) 402-7618.

### Sponsorship training classes

Army Community Service offers a sponsor training class to teach people how to help incoming personnel transition quickly and easily into the community. For details call Giessen ACS at mil 343-6910.

### Bulk trash pickup

The next date for pickup is March 7 for all housing areas. Put bulk items outside the night before. For details call Monika Nelson at mil 343-7161/6627.

### Volunteers needed

The Provost Marshal's Office seeks volunteers to be part



Photo by Petra Roberts

### Bundeswehr support

Capt. Jeremy Bernadeau, HHD commander, 284th BSB, hands out Valentine's Day cookies to German soldiers of the 6-411 Panzergrenadierbataillon. The Bundeswehr soldiers have beefed up force protection efforts throughout the 104th Area Support Group. Col. David J. Bender, 284th BSB commander, recognized their efforts and praised the good cooperation between the German and U.S. military in a ceremony in Giessen Feb. 20.

of the Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program. Volunteers will receive free training in situational awareness, first aid and basic self-defense. If interested call Tania Gonzales at mil 343-6500 or civ (0641) 402-6500.

### Butzbach mailbox

Residents of Butzbach's Roman Way Village can drop off U.S. mail at the APO letter drop box located at the Outreach Center.

### Child Find set for March 12

Butzbach Elementary School will conduct developmental screenings of children age 3-5 March 12 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. For more information and to schedule an appointment call civ (06033) 74520.

### Protestant Women of the Chapel meet on Wednesday

Friedberg's Protestant Women of the Chapel meet every Wednesday from 9:15-11:30 a.m. at the Chapel on Ray Barracks in Building 3604. All women are welcome to attend the meeting and join the worship and Bible study. Child care will be provided. Call mil 324-2028 for details.

### Airline tickets winner

Congratulations to Carol Roble, winner of round-trip Delta Air Lines tickets to the United States. Robles won the tickets by entering weekly drawing at the Military Partners website, [www.militarypartners.com](http://www.militarypartners.com). Robles, director of Family Child Care for the 284th Base Support Battalion, said she'll use the tickets this summer.

### Exercise instructors wanted

Certified aerobics and group exercise instructors are needed for the 284th Base Support Battalion Fitness Center. The 284th BSB Sports and Fitness Team seeks instructors for day and evening classes. Contact the Giessen Miller Hall Fitness Center at mil 343-7201 or Friedberg Fitness Center at mil 324-3155.

### Martial arts class

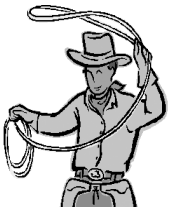
Martial arts classes are held every Monday and Wednesday at Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$30 for youth. Call mil 343-7201 for details.

### Parent and Me Playtime

Parent and Me Playtime takes place Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Friedberg Army Community Service. Giessen has scheduled classes Fridays from 9-11 a.m. in Building 12 on the Giessen Depot. Butzbach holds classes every Tuesday from 9-11 a.m., and in Wetzlar classes take place every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Wetzlar Community Room. For more information call Giessen ACS at mil 343-7618, Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465 or the Butzbach Outreach Center at civ (0178) 405 9066. From Wetzlar call civ (0641) 402-9311.

### Wild West Night

The 284th Base Support Battalion Hearts and Hands Community Club hosts its annual Wild West Night March 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Villa Calabria on Friedberg's Ray Barracks. The event will feature a Bonanza-style saloon, cancan girls, gaming tables, line dancing, a silent auction, a country store and a jail. For more information call Judith Brown at mil 324-3282.



### Soup's On luncheon

A Soup's On get-together in Giessen will be held the third Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Giessen Army Community Service conference room. In Friedberg the community lunch takes place every fourth Friday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the ACS dining room. Butzbach hosts the get-together every first Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the ACS Outreach Center. Take a break from work or step out of the house to meet new friends. Children are welcome. For more information call Giessen ACS at mil 343-7618 or Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3710.

### Butzbach pupils share spirit of Valentine's Day

Butzbach Elementary School third-graders invited their German counterparts from the Butzbach Stadtschule to their school to share Valentine's Day.

"We made valentines and each child in my class bought or made a Valentine's Day card for the German children," said Alyce Smith, a Butzbach Elementary School third-grade teacher.

Parents joined in the celebration with lunch and goodies.



Photo by Luz Medeiros

German third-graders examine their Valentine's Day treats in Butzbach.

## Law Center update

The Giessen Law Center welcomed two newcomers in the last two months. Capt. Timothy Hayes took over as the new officer in charge in January. Capt. John Dohn joined the staff in January.

Kudos to Sgt. Crystal Morse, 1st Armored Division's Paralegal Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

### Free tax help

Don't forget to stop by the Giessen Tax Center to file your federal and state income tax returns. The free service is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5

p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are not required, but they can be made by calling mil 343-8261 or 8268. The center is located in Building 7, Room 254 on the Giessen Depot.

For assistance with claims stop by the Law Center in Room 231 (across the hall from the Tax Center). An international affairs representative is available in Room 232 Wednesdays and Fridays. Soldiers requiring legal help can always get help at the Friedberg Law Center by calling mil 343-8298.

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Hazardous waste Recycling Center now open on Ray Barracks for military units

The 284th Base Support Battalion recently opened a Hazardous Material Recycling Center on Friedberg's Ray Barracks.

Units can now turn in and request issue of large quantities of hazardous material there at no cost. All hazardous material falling under the package Class III category will be accepted.

Units should consider the HMRC as their first source of supply for all hazardous material, officials said. An inventory list will help units determine if products are available before requisitioning or purchasing such material.

To assure proper handling of package Class III material, the following rules should be observed:

❑ Request free issue hazardous material only when there is a bona fide need for the material.

❑ Coordinate material turn-in by telephone or by email at least 24 hours in advance.

❑ Requests for issue sent in advance will assure materials are held for 24 hours. After that time products will once again be made available for issue to other units/organizations.

❑ Turn in hazardous materi-

als as soon as they are no longer needed to maximize shelf life.

❑ Transport hazardous materials in accordance with U.S. Army and host nation laws and regulations.

The HMRC cannot accept items in opened, damaged, rusted, dented or leaking containers. Proper use of the services offered will help save the environment and save valuable dollars also.

"Some of the associated benefits of the program are reduced procurement costs through improved HM management, disposal cost avoidance through reduced ordering and material reuse and, most importantly, the money saved by taking advantage of the program that can be allocated to other programs within the units," said Elize A. Youngblood, Re-Use Center facility manager.

For more information call the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Office at mil 343-8007, the 284th BSB Property Book Office at mil 343-7091 or the HMRC facility manager at mil 324-2228/7258. (Courtesy of the 284th BSB Directorate of Logistics)

## Giessen test project under way

A three-month test project in Giessen's Marshall Village is aimed at improving household hazardous material recycling. During the test period residents have been issued red baskets to dispose of commonly used household agents.

Household hazardous materials include paints, automobile cleaning and maintenance products such as oil or brake fluid, cleaners, solvents, aerosols, propane and batteries. Many of the items cannot be packed with household goods because they are flammable or corrosive. For the same reason they should not be put in dumpsters.

### Don't place in dumpsters

Instead, either: ❑ Give them to your neighbors (or have a yard sale). ❑ Use the red basket to collect them and turn them into the Giessen Self Help Issue Point, Building 106 on Giessen Depot.

SHIP will issue them to other residents free of charge. The Self Help store is open Monday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. Feel free to call them at mil

343-6363 for assistance.

The Friedberg Self Help Store also accepts and issues household hazardous material free of charge. Contact them at mil 324-3169.

If you don't have time to get to Self Help, call the Environmental Management Office at mil 343-8007 for a special pickup, or leave the basket in the apartment to be picked up by the housing inspector during your final housing out-check inspection.

If you don't use the basket to turn in household hazardous materials, leave it behind in your apartment for the housing inspector to collect.

Throughout the 104th Area Support Group all BSBs are striving to improve recycling. Should you have an idea to help improve recycling call the BSB Separate Or Recycle Trash coordinator at mil 343-7161, civ (0641) 402 7161 or the BSB Environmental Office at mil 343-8007. Everyone must work together to help improve the environment. Our kids deserve a healthy future, officials said.



A contractor trims the stage curtain at the Friedberg theater. Right: Workers put the finishing touches on the Friedberg Fitness Center shower and restroom facilities.



## Friedberg theater fixup Old Ironsides, gym get \$400,000 makeover

Story and photos by  
Petra Roberts

284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Families in the Friedberg area have not been able to watch their favorite movie at Friedberg's Old Ironsides Theater for a while because the facility underwent extensive renovations. The wait is nearing an end.

After a massive renovation effort by the Directorate of Public Works

and more than \$400,000 invested theater patrons will soon have a state-of-the-art facility. The theater has been equipped with new stage curtains, seats equipped with cup holders, repaired walls and lights and fully renovated restroom facilities.

The building exterior also looks more attractive, officials said. Completion of the exterior painting project depends on the weather conditions.

The theater will reopen March 14

and feature \$1 movies all weekend.

Not only has the Ray Barracks theater closure caused inconveniences, the fitness center bathroom facilities were also relocated to temporary buildings outside of the gym while bathrooms and restrooms underwent a facelift. The center's racquetball court received a new floor.

Construction work is expected to be completed around the middle of March, officials said.

## How to request service? Directorate of Public Works officials spell out procedures for placing work orders

The Directorate of Public Works is responsible for maintaining and repairing the buildings, utilities, roads and grounds in the 284th Base Support Battalion.

Community members who notice a problem with any of the above can request DPW to repair it.

There are three different repairs that can be requested.

### Service orders

Service orders are used when requesting minor work, repairs that require less than \$2,000 or 40 man-hours of work.

Minor repairs include repairing a lock or broken window or door or filling a pothole.

Work orders can be initiated by either calling the Work Reception at mil 343-7272 for Giessen, Wetzlar and Butzbach or mil 324-3480 for Friedberg and Bad Nauheim.

A work order can also be submitted online at [www.bosgmbh.com](http://www.bosgmbh.com).

Customers are encouraged to write down the service order number they receive.

Normally service orders are completed within 15 days but can

take longer if special parts are needed.

Customers should call the Work Reception if work has not been started after 30 days.

### Work request

Work requests have to be used for all work exceeding a service order such as installing, construction or repairs exceeding \$2,000 or any work needing special controls such as cutting multiple keys.

Work requests include: installation of signs, requesting large amounts of supplies from the Self-Help store or fixing large sections of damaged roads.

Work requests must be made in writing and dropped off by either submitting the manual Department of the Army Form 4283 to the Work Reception Desk in Giessen or Friedberg or filling out the new automated DA Form 4283.

Customers should keep a copy of the work request or write down the number given, as this is the easiest way to update the status of the request.

Completion time depends on the level of approval. Customers will be

notified if request was approved or not; however, they are asked to call the Work Reception Desk if they have not received a notification after 60 days.

### Emergency service

Work classified as an emergency consists of responding and correcting a problem that poses immediate danger to life, health, mission, security or property.

Examples are: 🚧 Excavating a spill site — spills of hazardous materials, toxic substance spills, hazardous waste and oil; 🚧 Water, sewer or heating line breakages; 🚧 Fires, sparks and the smell of smoke of unknown origin; 🚧 Gas leak or smell of gas; 🚧 Repair of fire alarm and emergency lighting systems in Child Development Centers, Army family housing areas and public places of assembly; or 🚧 Fire suppression systems at places of public assembly or in places where commercial cooking takes place such as clubs or dining facilities. For emergencies contact the Work Reception Desk in Giessen at mil 343-7272 or in Friedberg at mil 324-3480.

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



## Surviving on books

Eager Tiger Scouts swarm an American patient, still groggy from surgery, with offers of English language books donated to the children's ward at a German hospital in Hanau. The Tiger Scouts of Den 1, Cub Scout Pack 49 in Hanau, collected nearly 450 English-language books and comic books donated by students from Argonner Elementary School. The books were sorted and distributed to the Hanau Stadtkrankenhaus, the Women, Infants and Children office at the Wolfgang Shopping Area and the Hanau Health and Dental Clinics. "The Tiger Scouts were extremely excited about their book drive from the very beginning," said den leader Lisa Packer. "All of the boys did a great job and are very happy to make a significant contribution to their community." The community service project is one of the many character-building activities the scouts participate in each year. Scouts who participated in the project included Joshua Bright, Trey Howard, Matthew Packer, Joshua Pleake, Ian Pope and Brandon Wade, along with den leaders Packer and Kathy Pleake.

Photo by Wolfgang Niebling

## Around the community . . . Around the community

### Free performance

"Hack and Slash" is coming to the Five Pfennig Playhouse in Hanau March 21 at 7:30 p.m. This performance features a hilarious Shakespearean, comic, sword fighting duo comedy show suitable for the entire family. Call mil 322-8031 for details.

### First aid and safety course

The Hanau American Red Cross offers a first aid and safety course on March 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$30 which includes textbook. Call mil 322-1760 to reserve a space.

### Hanau APO open Saturday

The Hanau Army Post Office at the Wolfgang Shopping Center is now open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (for a nine-week trial period). Other hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday from noon to 6 p.m.

### Vehicle holding lot

The 414th Base Support Battalion's holding lot on Grossauheim is open from 1:30-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Appointments are recommended. The lot is for non-operational vehicles and vehicles awaiting disposal. Non-operational vehicles not registered as non-operational in Hanau will be towed at the owner's expense to the holding lot for disposal. Call Staff Sgt. Jackson or Spc. Pastran at mil 322-1610 or 8253 for more information.

### Campo Pond access

Access to Campo Pond is now only possible through the back gate (No. 1) on Thursdays to alleviate military traffic/convoys at the New Argonner Housing gate during sergeant's time training. Gate No. 8 at New Argonner Housing will be closed on Thursdays (the gate connecting Campo Pond and the housing area). Call Mr. Mr. Stroud at mil 322-8070 for more information.

### Awana Club welcomes youths

The Awana Club, a self-paced Christian children's organization, meets every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at Argonner Elementary School on Old Argonner Kaserne. The club is open to all children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Activities include games, sing-alongs, Scripture reading and

more. Call Lynn Stinson at civ (06181) 520 277 for more information.

### PWOC meets Thursdays

All women are welcome to attend Bible studies with the Protestant Women of the Chapel at Fliegerhorst Chapel from 9-11:15 a.m. every Thursday morning. Call civ (06181) 520 272 for more information.

### Spouses Club offers thousands in scholarships

Applications for the Hanau Community Spouses Club scholarships are now available at the Hanau High School counselor's office and the Hanau Education Center on Pioneer Kaserne. High school seniors, family members and adult civilians are encouraged to apply. The deadline for submission is March 21. Last year the club gave out \$20,000.



Photo by James Duffy

Bundeswehr soldiers guarding local U.S. military installations have put up new signs. The signs are in German, but the translation reads, "Military security area. Warning: deadly force is authorized." Trained while peacekeeping in Kosovo and Bosnia, the German guards are extremely disciplined in their force protection measures, officials said. "Residents in the community should be aware of their expertise and focus," said James Duffy, 414th Base Support Battalion force protection officer. "We're lucky to have them with us."

### Büdingen Teen Center now open, seeks suggestions

The Büdingen Teen Center is now open and accepting suggestions from interested teens and parents. Stop by Building 2330 on Armstrong Barracks Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. or Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Transportation will be provided to and from the Gelnhausen bus stop to the center daily. For more information call mil 321-4793 or civ (06042) 80-793.

### Ballet classes

The Cardwell Youth Services Center features ballet classes Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:10-4 p.m. for children age 3-6 years old and Thursdays from 4-4:50 p.m. for children age 7-12. Participants must be registered with CLEOS and have a current health assessment on file. Cost is \$30 for a 50-minute class. Call mil 322-9144 or 9919 for more information.

### Sampler hours

The American Sampler Craft Shop at the Wolfgang Shopping Center is open Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is closed on Monday and U.S. holidays. Call mil 322-8082 or civ (06181) 88-8082 for details.

### Sponsorship training classes

Help make the transition to Hanau easy with Army Community Service sponsorship classes. Classes are held the first and third Friday of each month from 10-11 a.m. in the Hanau ACS Conference Room, Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-8965 to sign up.

### Deployed spouses

Spouses of deployed or deploying soldiers are invited to go bowling, pick up information and have fun with Army Family Team Building March 13 at 6 p.m. at the Hessen Bowl on Hanau's Wolfgang Shopping Center. Call mil 322-5308 for details.



## Hanau soldiers deploy to CENTCOM

### Elements of 16th Corps Support Group, 130th Engineer Brigade prepare soldiers, families and equipment for pending deployments

By Melody Joy Fields

414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 16th Corps Support Group and the 130th Engineer Brigade received deployment orders and are leaving for the Central Command region.

Approximately 500 soldiers from the 565th Engineer Battalion based in Hanau are currently being deployed. "Some have already moved out," said Lt. Col. Mark Holt, 130th Engineer Brigade deputy commander. "Our other two battalions already deployed," from Bamberg and Vilseck. The 16th CSG has received deployment orders for several companies, but not the entire group.

The deployments have gone in phases, a little bit at a time, said Lt. Col. Jerry L. Mraz, the 414th Base Support Battalion commander. "Some units have already gone and some are still going."

The process of "going" is complicated and involves massive logistical coordination, said officials. "It's a very well coordinated operation at the highest levels in Germany that orchestrates movement of equipment either by rail, road, barge or seaport," said Holt. "But the thing that has impressed

me most is how hard all the soldiers have worked as a team on pretty much short notice to have the equipment ready and to have their families ready. It's hard to imagine it until you see it."

Soldiers from both the 130th and the 16th have been processing vehicles and equipment through BSB run Installation Staging Areas. The two companies from the 130th have deployed approximately 200 vehicles in addition to bridge-specific equipment. Each vehicle to be shipped must pass a series of inspections at

the staging area to ensure the equipment is safe for transport and in good working order. Once cleared for loading, soldiers spend hours guiding trucks onto railcars and barges, tying them down and nailing blocks behind wheels to secure the cargo for transit.

"We've stepped up work," said Spc. Juan Pabellon from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th CSG. "We just work until the mission gets cleared."

Even with the increased work load, soldiers are making time to spend with their families before shipping out. "I have a wife and a daughter who is turning three in March," said Pabellon. "I'm trying to spend time with

**"The thing that has impressed me most is how hard all the soldiers have worked as a team on pretty much short notice ..."**

**— Lt. Col. Mark Holt**



Photo by Melody Joy Fields

Maj. Bob Hookness, 16th Corps Support Battalion S-1, tries on his desert combat uniform "booney cap."

my family right now. I'd like to do well with the time I have with them."

Another 16th CSG soldier, 1st Lt. Bobby Crocker, has two children and a wife in the

reserves. "She's in a unit at Rhein Main and her unit was activated last May," said Crocker. "We've both been around the Army a long time and know what to expect. This is not my first deployment — not my first time away from them."

Crocker's children have peppered him with questions and requests. "They ask 'where do you have to go' kind of stuff and 'how long are you going to be gone.' My daughter is asking for sandals."

"Leaving our families and not knowing what's going to happen when we get to our location," is a big anxiety for soldiers, said HHC, 16th CSG commander, Capt. Matthew Anderson. In the days leading up to deployment unit priorities have been "making sure we have everything we need and that our families are taken care of back here so the soldiers can be mission focused."

There might be a sense of relief after finally receiving deployment orders, said Maj. Bob Hookness, S1 for the 16th CSG, "but there are a new set of anxieties, too."

"There's definitely a lot of motivation and high morale," said Anderson.

"I'm excited," said Pabellon, a computer network administrator. "We rely on computers to a certain extent, so there's a high demand for me right now to make sure everything is set up. I get to put my skills to work — I'm excited about that. People depend on me. I'd like to pull it through for them. So you could say I'm excited."

"The soldiers are trained and ready to go," said Anderson. "I have no doubt they'll accomplish their mission."



Photo by Melody Joy Fields

Soldiers from 16th Corps Support Group and 130th Engineer Brigade prepare vehicles and equipment for transport by rail and barge. Before equipment can be loaded, soldiers must first have it inspected. Then every truck must be carefully loaded, tied down and the tires blocked to prevent shifting during transit.



## Stress: ACS trains parents and teachers to help children cope with deployment separations

By Melody Joy Fields  
414th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers are packing their bags, loading trains with equipment and preparing to deploy in support of the global war on terrorism. That can be difficult for children to understand.

As soldiers deploy, their children, who may not comprehend words such as terrorism, may also not understand why they're being left behind.

Children experience deployment stress as much as their parents, said Tamera Evonne, Hanau Army Community Service life skills educator. "Most teachers and parents know better than anyone what children need; however, it has been many years since the Army has experienced a large scale deployment, and many parents may not feel confident in how to address their children's stress."

Some school-age children have started expressing their stress through disrespectful and sometimes violent behavior. "The schools contacted us and said they have noticed increased anxiety in students and an increase in bad behavior," said Cynthia Stanbary, outreach coordinator for Hanau ACS.

Teachers reported that normally well-behaved students were talking back, making snide comments, "copping an attitude" and even starting fights. Misdirected anger



Photo by Melody Joy Fields

Children from Amanda Marashluan's kindergarten class at Argonner Elementary School may not seem stressed, but teachers at all five Hanau schools have noticed an increase in anxiety and misdirected anger surrounding parental deployments. Exercise and vigorous play can help reduce a child's stress and encourage healthy communication of emotions, officials said.

was beginning to interfere with the teaching process. "The schools called and said 'help,'" said Stanbary.

In response ACS began training teachers and parents on deployment stress in children and

teenagers.

"We feed off other people's emotions," said Stanbary. "Children feed off their parents' emotions, and younger brothers, sisters and friends look to other children around them." The ACS training helps explain the often volatile emotions children experience during a deployment.

### 'Extra preparation'

The sessions "will give extra preparation to teachers and parents about how to talk to children on the topic of deployment," said Evonne. "We offer ideas and reassurance to teachers, parents and children on keeping connected with the service member deployed as well as with the remaining family members at home."

Trainers begin by explaining the progressive stages of child development. Children express their emotions differently in each stage, and children in each stage require a different approach from parents and teachers.

The training also covers the emotional stages a child will most likely experience during pre-deployment and deployment. Expressions of denial, grief, anger, acceptance and coping are all discussed. Perhaps most importantly trainers offer suggestions on developing healthy

ways to reduce stress in children and ways to help them express their emotions by keeping lines of communication open.

"The whole point of this is to be as open and honest as possible with the children," said Stanbary. "We don't want someone to say, 'Oh, your dad will be fine; he'll be OK,' because then what if he isn't? Now you've just lied. It's better to say things like 'Daddy is good at what he does and is well trained.'"

"Parents said from their past experience with previous deployments they simply have to tell their children as much as possible," said Evonne. The ACS training sessions focus on communicating in a way that reduces a child's stress rather than increasing it.

ACS will also host a discussion group facilitated by the guidance counselors, ACS trainers and teachers at Hanau High School and Middle School. "We hope to encourage an open forum for students around the issues of deployment to give them a chance to ask questions that are perhaps difficult to ask," said Evonne.

### Keeping connected

To help families feel connected during a deployment separation, ACS has developed a list of activities and tips. "The elementary

schools will be completing projects and playtime activities that provide the children with the opportunity to release their emotions and help the children in keeping connected with the deployed parent," said Evonne.

Some of the activities for children and teenagers include making a memory book with photos, drawings and letters from the deployed parent, filling a treasure box with special items from their parent, sending homemade cards, taping messages to mail and even writing a weekly family newsletter.

### Given ideas

Soldiers are also given ideas on how they can stay connected to their children during a deployment. Ideas include leaving encouraging notes hidden throughout the house, taping themselves reading a favorite book or singing a favorite song, trading significant items to remind both the parent and the child of each other or even picking a time of the day to stop and think about each other.

Parents interested in learning more about deployment stress in their children are encouraged to attend parent briefings which will be held at each of the Hanau area schools. Contact ACS at civ(06181) 88-8965/8963 or individual schools for dates and times.



Photo by Melody Joy Fields

Keeping children happy and healthy is the goal of Army Community Service training sessions for both parents and teachers.